



**National Capital Planning Commission  
Special Commission Meeting on the Height Master Plan for Washington, DC**

October 30, 2013

**Statement of Janet Quigley, Capitol Hill Restoration Society**

Chairman Bryant and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Janet Quigley and I am testifying on behalf of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society. CHRS has promoted historic preservation and residential quality of life on Capitol Hill for more than 50 years.

Regarding the federal interest, we commend the National Capital Planning Commission staff for their thoughtful and responsible report on the Height Act Master Plan and concur with their finding that the Height Act continues to meet the essential interests and needs of the federal government, and that any changes would have a significant adverse effect on federal interests. There is no compelling reason to change the Height of Buildings Act of 1910. In addition to the aesthetic and historic reasons which have been well documented, we also submit that:

- Stewardship of the nation's capital city is also a federal interest.
- The federal interest applies outside as well as inside the L'Enfant City.
- The Height Act supports the L'Enfant Plan, which itself is a National Landmark.
- Water approaches to the city should also be considered as viewsheds to be protected, for example the views near Buzzard Point and Poplar Point.

We also agree that more study is needed before any significant changes are contemplated.

Regarding the local interest, we commend the Office of Planning for the remarkable collection of photos and graphics they amassed for the Master Plan study. However we disagree with the proposed conclusions and believe that supply has been understated and demand overstated, resulting in a manufactured crisis. Our comments on the OP report were submitted last week and are part of the record. I would just emphasize that the lack of cost estimates for additional infrastructure could result in hidden costs for the District of Columbia taxpayers.

In summary, both NCPC and OP are to be commended for their exhaustive public outreach and work on this important issue. We support the NCPC report and urge the Office of Planning to partner with NCPC on the final product.